20 November 2026

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,

We are pleased to let you know that the Southland Girls' High School Board has confirmed that the school will opt into the Ministry of Education's **School Donations Scheme from the beginning of 2027**.
We understand that the cost of education can place pressure on family budgets.
Participation in the Donations Scheme will reduce some costs previously charged to families while ensuring students continue to have access to quality learning opportunities.

The information below outlines what this change means for you and your child.

What is the School Donations Scheme?

The School Donations Scheme is available to state and state-integrated schools that meet the Ministry of Education's eligibility criteria. Southland Girls' High School is eligible to participate and will receive additional funding based on student enrolment numbers.

By opting into the scheme, the school agrees not to request donations for curriculum-related learning activities, except for voluntary contributions towards overnight camps.

As a result:

- We will no longer charge an annual utility fee.
- Students will continue to participate in curriculum-related learning activities without additional curriculum charges in most cases.
- Families will have fewer school-related costs throughout the year.

What does this mean for families?
The School Donations Scheme helps make education more affordable by reducing costs associated with curriculum learning activities.
While some costs will no longer apply, families will still be responsible for expenses associated with optional activities and personal items such as:

- School uniform
- Stationery
- Extra-curricular sports and activities
- Optional camps, tournaments and trips
- Materials used to create items students take home
- Optional study books to take home and keep

School Camps and Trips

Curriculum-Related Camps and Trips
Curriculum-related camps and trips are part of the learning programme, and students are expected to attend.

Southland Girls' High School ask families to make a voluntary contribution towards costs such as:

- Transport
- Accommodation
- Food
- Activities

However, students cannot be excluded from attending a curriculum-related trip or camp if they do not make a contribution.

Examples include:

- Curriculum-based field trips such as Year 8 Deep Cove camp
- Multi-day subject-related excursions
- Leadership camps connected to learning programmes

While contributions are voluntary and don't cover all associated costs, we still need income to make these camps viable.

Optional Trips, Sports and Activities

Optional activities fall outside the curriculum, and participation is by choice. Because these activities are optional, schools will charge fees to recover costs.

Examples include:

- Sporting teams and tournaments
- Sports camps
- Optional recreational trips e.g. Yr 9 ABL days
- Non-curriculum activities

Extra-Curricular including Sports, Culture and Performance Groups

We encourage students to take advantage of the many sporting and cultural opportunities available at Southland Girls' High School.

Participation in sports teams is voluntary. If your child chooses to register for a sports team or cultural/performance group, payment of the associated cost is required before participation can occur.

We will communicate costs as soon as the relevant organisations confirm them, giving families as much time as possible to budget and plan ahead.

Our **"pay before you play" policy** will continue to apply. We will allocate any payments received to the oldest outstanding fee or charge first.

If you require assistance with sports/culture/performance or camp costs, please contact the school. We are committed to working with families wherever possible.

Payments

Many families find regular automatic payments a helpful way to spread costs across the year.

- Account Name: Southland Girls' High School Board
- Account Number: 12-3434-0028928-001

To correctly identify you and your payment, please enter:

- Particulars: Payment detail eg. trip name, resource purchased
- Code: Student's AT class
- Reference: Student's First and Last name

Voluntary Donations to Southland Girls' High School

Although Southland Girls' High School will be part of the Government's School Donations Scheme, we continue to rely on voluntary contributions to provide facilities, programmes and opportunities that extend beyond the funding provided through our operational grant.

School Donation - $100 per Student (Voluntary)
Voluntary donations help us provide:

- Specialist equipment and resources for subjects such as Digital Technology, Music, Performing Arts and Technology
- Additional learning resources that support student achievement and engagement
- Staffing that enables a wider range of curriculum and co-curricular opportunities

Donations may also qualify for a tax credit through Inland Revenue.

PTA Donation - $30 per Family (Voluntary)
The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) contributes significantly to school life and student wellbeing.
PTA funding supports:

- The Breakfast and Lunch Club
- Audio-visual upgrades across the school
- Student wellbeing initiatives
- Resources and projects that enhance teaching and learning opportunities

Thank You

Thank you for your ongoing support of Southland Girls' High School. We value our partnership with families and appreciate the many ways our community contributes to the success of our students.

Ngā mihi nui

John Grogan - Principal
Kelly Tagg - Presiding Memb